(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The testing kit is based on DNA technology for rapid detection of typhoid infection from patient's serum.

(d) and (e) The kit developed by Defence Research Development Establishment, Gwalior has been evaluated in AIIMS in limited samples. The results are satisfactory. To sort out a few unanswered question, a further study for one year starting June, 2003 is being taken up.

Pesticides in mineral water

4519. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA :
SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU) :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry released a statement right after pesticides were found in mineral water that the water was according to the standards set by BIS;

(b) if so, whether the standards set by BIS mention that harmful pesticides should be present in the water; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) In response to a calling attention motion in Lok Sabha on 20-2-2003, a statement was made by Hon'ble H.F.M. in the Lok Sabha.

Requirement of pesticide residues prescribed under PFA Rules, 1945 and by BIS in their standards in Packaged Drinking Water and Mineral Water should be "below detectable limits", when tested in accordance with the specific methods as prescribed by BIS in their inspection and testing scheme, which can detect upto 0.01 mg. of pesticides per litre of water. The Ministry of Health, in consultation with BIS, is considering the revision of these standards.

Interference of DG in drug control matters

4520. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN :
SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state: